

Times-Dispatch

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SATURDAY, AUGUST 8, 1908.

THE GRAND JURY ON THE CITY HOME.

It is to be noted that the grand jury took a different view of conditions at the City Home, as bearing upon the murder of the infant Vaughan, from that taken by the Committee on July 24th. The committee's most important resolution said: "The committee find it impossible to say that any officer or employee was guilty of negligence." The grand jury, on the contrary, flatly says: "The negligence of those in charge of said child caused the repetition of the attempt at murder, which finally resulted fatally." The committee described the suppression of the fact of attempt at murder as "an unwise idea." The grand jury asserts that this suppression "deserves the severest rebuke and censure, and justifies our opinion that this failure [to report] was indirectly the cause of the second fatal attempt at murder."

In the course of its eight-day investigation the grand jury had, it is needless to say, opportunities to reach conclusions not enjoyed by the committee. The jury utilized these opportunities. Its findings therefore include the following further points not embraced in the report of the committee: That the attendance given the poisoned child was, in one respect, "so at variance with ordinary medical skill as to show incompetency and the lack of experience."

That the exposure and accessibility of deadly poisons at the home is a practice "beyond the comprehension of this jury, and deserves the severest censure."

That help at the home is inefficient; that "in many instances the nurses are unfit," and the young physicians are unequal to the demands upon them.

That the conflict of authority and responsibility "shows a lamentable condition of affairs at the home," which "seems to have no recognized head."

That the home requires a "competent, fearless man" for superintendent; that the hospital should be divorced from the home and put under an able resident physician; and that the corps of attendants, nurses and internes be both enlarged and improved.

The grand jury's report will generally commend itself as being strong, impartial, thorough and in close accord with the facts. The evidence submitted to this body reveals an appalling state of affairs at the home, due partly to improper organization and inefficient management, and partly to an utter insufficiency of help. For both of these certain causes of trouble, the jury urges remedies. It takes an absolutely sound position in recommending that the Council should either make larger appropriations for the home or curtail the admissions to it. It is a disgrace to the city that it should conduct a public hospital with a parsimony which directly endangers the lives entrusted to it.

Therefore the jury was right to censure the City Council hardly less severely than the officers of the home. In the last analysis, the Council is responsible for its conduct. The reorganization of the institution is imperative, and in the interests of humanity should not be long delayed. Public hospitals are no places for cheap economies. The death of Baby Vaughan has established that fact, if it has done nothing else.

CONGRESS AND PARLIAMENT.

The work of the Congress of the United States and that of the English Parliament, in their broader aspects, are closely alike. Numerous illustrations of this truth could be obtained from history, but the last session of Congress and the last session of Parliament are instances.

Many measures of importance were introduced at the last session of Congress and passed by Mr. Roosevelt, but beyond passing the current appropriation bills and enlarging their expenditures little was done. An employers' liability bill and the emergency currency bill were the only measures of general interest that were enacted. "A do-nothing Congress," the critics called it.

Similar were the results of the session of Parliament, adjourned August the first last. Twelve important measures were urged in the King's speech at the opening in January, yet only two, the old-age pension bill and the Irish universities bill, became laws. The sleeping bill, the education bill, a measure making eight hours a day's work in the mines, a bill forbidding children to smoke and the sending of them to jail when under sixteen, Mr. Burns's bill to abolish the slums, and a bill to amend the Irish land purchase act, either reached only the committee stage or otherwise failed of enactment.

There is no necessity to seek for the causes of this common inaction. For our present purpose it is only needed to point out that Congress is more able to do all that is asked of it.

Borrowed Jingles.

It is a valuable trait of English-speaking peoples not to admit satisfaction with the work of their legislative assemblies. And for Congress, as well as Parliament, this attitude is both stimulating and corrective.

LEGAL IRRESPONSIBILITY.

Perhaps what most angers the poor consumer about the demeanor of the great corporations is their ramifications, fictions and masquerades. It is not merely difficult for the consumer's alleged friend, the law, to find and punish the guilty individual nowadays. It is difficult for it to find and punish the guilty company. The recent decision in the Standard Oil case called attention anew to the interesting method by which that concern maintains itself in a series of subdivisions, and so evades the aggregated responsibilities which belong to it. The Lands fine, it was pointed out, exceeded all the assets of the defendant, which happened to be in this case not the Standard Oil Company, but the Standard Oil Company of Indiana. It is manifestly oppressive, so the trust lawyers pointed out, to fine a company more millions than it possesses.

These cases of legal and systematic irresponsibility have been common enough of late years. A fresh one has just come to light in the government suit against the anthracite roads, which are forbidden by the Hepburn law from engaging in the coal business. The Reading Railway Company, in reply, denies that it is engaged in such business. There is, it is true, a certain thing known as the "Reading Company," which operates both a coal mine and the Reading Railway. But as for the Reading Railway Company, it no more mines coal than sells flying machines. The government is respectfully directed to apply at the other address. There, quite possibly, it might find that the "Reading Company" is itself controlled by a holding company or so; and the tracking of the law-breaker home to its lair might prove something like a journey through a labyrinth.

The plain man does not understand these subtleties or sympathize with these elusions. He sees no more reason why a group of men should have aliases than why these men as individuals should have them. The motive impresses him as being the same in either case: the evasion in one impersonation of acts committed in another. The fact that this is accomplished under the law only adds to his irritation and his sense of injustice. Each new instance drives him a little further in dislike of the mysterious powers and more obvious chicanery inherent in the word "corporation." Each makes him more desirous to place destructive hands upon that legal machinery which enables men to keep on interposing an imaginary alibi between themselves and their wrongdoings.

PITFALLS FOR SPELLERS.

At the annual "world's spelling match" of the Winona Lake Assembly, held at Warsaw, Ind., the other day, a seventy-three-year-old woman won the orthographic championship on "concatenation." Neither the second nor third best speller, the one from Muncie, Ind., and the other from Memphis, Tenn., could negotiate this word. There were eighty contestants in the match, and we read that the words which "crystallized," "surrogate," "prerequisite," "plebeian," "caoutchouc" and "innuendo. Five went down on "plebeian" alone.

The results of the bout prove that it is the unexpected which happens in spelling, and that no one can tell what combination of letters may prove his undoing until he is brought face to face with it. It is the fatal dupe that unsettles the speller's mind. Probably most of the Winona contestants could have easily managed "concatenation" in the peace of their own rooms. Certainly it is not ordinarily considered a very difficult word to spell. Neither are "surrogate," "prerequisite," "plebeian" and "innuendo." "Erysipelas" presents certain difficulties on account of the close juxtaposition of "i" and "y." "Caoutchouc" is South American, and is hardly fair.

On the whole it must be said that the Winona spellers, while they may have disposed of hard words without batting an eye, went down, as is usually the case, on fairly easy ones. The famous "stickers" of earlier days apparently claimed no victims at all. Where was our old friend "phthisis"? Where were "separation" and "benefited"? Where was the "shelving" that once slew its thousands and the "parallel" that slew its tens of thousands?

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The four suffragettes who were denied admittance at Sagamore Hill the other day might have fared even worse if they had been mistaken for mothers and sweethearts of the celebrated Eight Cads.

The candidate who conducts a back-porch and front platform campaign will undoubtedly make a hit with the sublimates.

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It is denied that Messrs. Chafin and Watkins have adopted as their campaign song "Drink to me only with thine eyes."

We wonder if Mr. Higgen's parents once told him that he might be president some day?

People who listen to spellbinders are by no means always spellbound, however.

Nor has Turkey yet progressed far enough to launch a Progressivist party or a War-platform campaign.

Candidates desiring to rent stumps in doubtful States will kindly speak to the editor of the Times-Dispatch.

The Court of Europe.

BY
La Marquise de Fontenay

Leutenant-Colonel in English Regiment
Former and Impoverished.

THE "Marquise" of Vernon, who has just been deprived of her commission of lieutenant-colonel, is a woman of no mean rank. She was born in the Soudan campaign, a veteran of the Soudan campaign, a court-martial at Woolwich, England, and a victim of the "Bosnian" and misappropriation of military funds, is not a member of the British peerage, nor even, despite his statements to the contrary, of the French aristocracy. She is merely a French title of courtesy, which she has assumed, and which she is merely for the purpose of showing how ready people are, even in England, to concede nobility distinctions to those who have money. And cause him to reflect to take his wanted parabum?

Swifter than any Jehu
Would he approach our door,
Bright as the brightest sun
The apron that he wore;
Soft as the fan of zephyr's wings
His velvet coat and hat;
He brought her chops of roses and things,
And smiled her heart away.

O shade of Mrs. Beeton,
Lament with you who feels
Alone and left and dead
His last of earthly meals;
The robber Johnson claims his bride
And would not let her go;
No other cook, however vile,
Can fill the gap she's left.

Barren With Wealth.
"Did you try counting sheep for your insomnia?"
"Yes, doc; but I made a mess of it. I counted 18,000 sheep, put on cars, and shipped 'em to the South side of the island. I got for 'em made me afraid to go to sleep."—Washington Herald.

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Ethel: "Let's play house."
Johnny: "All right, but he's away in the country and I'll be pa."—New York Sun.

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"John, I hear you were betting on the races yesterday."
"Yes, I was. I merely took out some insurance that certain quadrupeds wouldn't pass under a wire first."—Houston Chronicle.

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"The chorus girls have formed a union."
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First Husband: "What do you hear from your wife on her summer vacation?"
Second Husband: "The local bank reports that she is well and happy."—Life.

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Mr. Bryan's encouragement in the opinion of Attorney-General Bonaparte against the guarantee of deposits in the national banks to prosecute the fight for such guarantee, and to arouse a public sentiment that will demand the necessary legislation to accomplish the purpose, is a very laudable object. The objection which Attorney-General Bonaparte urges may be legal and technical and a Methodist, but followed his point, which regards strictly the letter of the law. But that does not prove that the law is not sound in principle or that it is not a Methodist in principle.

Donizetti's Heirs.
Donizetti's heirs versus the French Society of Dramatic Authors and Composers, a curious law suit which has been pending for some time in the Commercial Tribunal, has found for the plaintiffs, Signor Gaetano and Giuseppe Donizetti. This means that, unless the judgment be reversed on appeal, the heirs of the composer will have to pay the claim of Donizetti's heirs for the royalties for performances in France of his operas, "La Favorita," "La Figlia del Regimento" and "Don Pasquale."

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State Quarantine.
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Mentions Mr. Meredith.
As stated in the Gazette of that day, Mr. Meredith, who has been elected president of the State Bar Association, was elected at Hot Springs, yesterday informed that he had been elected president of the coming presidential election. Mr. Meredith took advantage of his position to gain a personal acquaintance with all the candidates. He has never voted for Mr. Bryan, so his vote will be no less to the Democrats than to the Republicans. It is a pity that a man in Virginia could not vote for the Republican ticket or not.—Alexandria Gazette.

To Hide His Thoughts.
Some of our contemporaries are wondering why the State has projected a speech of 2,500 words grow into one of 10,000. Because, while a plain declaration of purposes, much as it may be, it is a very long speech. The State has projected a speech of 2,500 words grow into one of 10,000. Because, while a plain declaration of purposes, much as it may be, it is a very long speech.

The Farmers' Hope.
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Fears the Skeleton's Escape.
The Republican party does not so much dread the evil influence upon business of a Democratic administration as it dreads the possibility of the escape of the skeleton. The Republican party does not so much dread the evil influence upon business of a Democratic administration as it dreads the possibility of the escape of the skeleton.

What Becomes of the Coins?
What becomes of all the metal money? We know that paper money is worn out or destroyed from time to time. But what happens to the metal money? We know that paper money is worn out or destroyed from time to time. But what happens to the metal money?

TAKING ALL PRECAUTIONS.
Chairman Had Been a Traveler Himself and Knew the Perils.
A distinguished traveler and war correspondent, who gave a lecture tour in Scotland, spoke one night at a little village four miles from a railway station.

Missouri Floods.
The flood has been kind to one town. For years Missouri City, about 10 miles east of Kansas City, in Clay county, has been off the river map, and the steamboats couldn't get within miles of it because of a change in the channel.

Tea as a Germ Killer.
Tea is now elevated from the position of a social beverage to the dignity of a germ destroyer. Dr. McNaught, the medical investigator, has found that tea is a germicide. It is a germicide. It is a germicide. It is a germicide.

Novel Farming.
A mud turtle farm, which will also be devoted to the raising of mushrooms, goldfish and guinea pigs, is the latest venture of the head of one of the big Western railroads.

Expert Officers.
One of the local officers of Chicago tells of a plumber's apprentice who, on his way to work one morning, called on his father, who was a plumber, and was known by his wish to register his father's death. When the clerk asked the date of the demise, the son replied:

That won't do at all," said the clerk. "Perhaps your father will live for a long while yet."

"Well, I don't know," responded the apprentice, "but I know what he has given him."—Harris's Weekly.

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